

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087295

43

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

UNCLAS STATE 087295

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, TU

SUBJECT: SECRETARY ON US-TURKISH AGREEMENT

FOLLOWING IS FROM TRANSCRIPT OF Q AND A SESSION FOLLOWING
ADDRESS BY SECRETARY YESTERDAY IN NEW YORK BEFORE COMBINED
AUDIENCE OF FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION, U.S. COUNCIL OF
INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND U.N. ASSOCIATION
OF U.S.A.

BEGIN QUOTE

Q: MR. SECRETARY, BECAUSE OF THE GREAT IMPORTANCE TO
NATO, I FEEL, TO OUR GOVERNMENT, WE SHOULD SUPPORT THE
US-TURKISH AGREEMENT THAT HAS JUST BEEN MADE. CAN YOU
SHOW US WHY THIS WOULD ALSO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST
OF GREECE -- WHICH I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE, BECAUSE THEY
ARE NOT MEMBERS OF NATO -- AND WOULD BE HELPED BY THE
STRONG SUPPORT OF THE TURKS WHO HAVE BEEN GREAT FRIENDS
OF OURS?

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PAGE 02 STATE 087295

A: ... IF YOU ASK ME TO EXPLAIN IT TO A NON-GREEK AUDIENCE

I WOULD SAY THAT TURKEY AT THE EASTERN END OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, STANDING BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND MIDDLE EAST, MAINTAINING ONE OF THE LARGEST ARMIES IN NATO, IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE SECURITY OF THE

WEST, INCLUDING THE SECURITY OF GREECE. THE FAILURE BY THE CONGRESS TO APPROVE THIS AGREEMENT WOULD LEAD TO AN IRREPARABLE BLOW TO THE SECURITY OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN UNDER CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE TO BE ONE OF OUR PRINCIPAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY CONCERNS.

SO WE HOPE VERY MUCH THAT THE CONGRESS WILL SEE MATTERS IN THE SAME LIGHT -- ALL THE MORE SO AS WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE A PARALLEL ARRANGEMENT WITH GREECE AND ARE IN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING WITH GREECE RIGHT NOW. THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT FEEL THAT IT SHOULD CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WHOSE FRIENDSHIP IT HAS VALUED, WHOSE CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMON DEFENSE IS ESSENTIAL. AND WE WILL PURSUE A POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY, AND WE WILL MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE TO A SOLUTION OF THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THEM. END QUOTE KISSINGER

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